

success. In epilepsy, when the attacks occur at long intervals, and then appear in rapid succession, one fit as it were producing and being continuous with the next, the inhalation of chloroform, in my experience, at once interrupts the convulsions, causing, first, intermissions, and then, if the administration of the remedy be continued, entire cessation of all irregular muscular action. In the convulsive stage of general paralysis, I have obtained the same results. These results are entirely opposed to the experience of other observers. Van der Kolk writes thus:—"Epileptic attacks are usually so much promoted by chloroform, that this agent has been recommended as a means of distinguishing true from feigned epilepsy; and in the few cases in which I have tried chloroform, I found severe epileptic attacks to ensue, which deterred me from its further use."

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#### *A Persistent Delusion.*

In the Report of the Royal Glasgow Asylum, for 1870, is mentioned a case in which refusal of food has lasted now for *nearly three years*, and still continues:—

It is remarkable that one of the male patients, who does not hesitate to take certain kinds of medicine readily, refuses all kind of nourishment under the delusion that it is "drugged." In consequence he has been fed thrice daily, by means of the stomach-pump, for nearly three years. He will not leave his bed, although quite able to be out of it; but, notwithstanding such confinement and artificial alimentation, his bodily condition keeps pretty good.

It would be interesting to learn the result of the experiment of obliging this patient to leave his bed, like other mortals, and of allowing him to remain entirely without food for a few days, unless he chose to take it voluntarily. If he could not be prevailed upon to take food, he might at any rate be prevailed upon to leave his bed, and perhaps if he did that he might after a time begin to take food.

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#### *A Singular Mania.*

The following account of an extraordinary mania is from the *North British Mail*:—

There has just been buried at Fraserburgh a man of over threescore, who, during the last twenty or thirty years of his life, displayed such a proclivity for witnessing coffin-building and funerals as amounted